



City of Harrisonburg  
Public Information Office  
345 South Main Street  
Harrisonburg, Virginia 22801  
540-432-8931 FAX 540-432-7778

For Immediate Release  
October 31, 2014

Contact: Contact: Anne Lewis, Assistant City Manager  
540.432.7701  
Anne.Lewis@HarrisonburgVA.gov

## Sewer System Testing to Occur Through the End of the Year

Harrisonburg, VA – The Public Utilities Department will be smoke testing Harrisonburg's sanitary sewer system along the South Main Street corridor from Pleasant Hill Road to the southern corporate limits.

Testing will take place starting Monday, November 3, 2014 and will wrap up by the end of December.

Field personnel with the Public Utilities Department will release a non-toxic and non-staining test smoke into the manholes, which will travel through the sanitary sewer system in order to detect any breaks or leaks in the city's system.

Residents should expect to see smoke being released from plumbing vents, which are located on the roof top. Smoke being released from these vents is a clear indication of a properly installed plumbing system.

Tips for residents:

- It is recommended to pour one gallon of water into the drain traps of floors, sinks, showers, and tubs. This will help prevent sewer gases or smoke from entering a home or business.
- If the non-toxic smoke enters a residence or business, this is a sign of a defect in the plumbing. When this occurs, there is no need to contact emergency services. Open a window or door for ventilation, note the location of the smoke, and contact a qualified plumber.
- Anyone with respiratory or cardiovascular conditions should not stay in a building, where smoke has entered, as a precautionary measure.

Questions? Contact Marilyn Hartman in the Public Utilities Department at 540-434-9959 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. We appreciate cooperation in this important public program.

*The Harrisonburg Department of Public Utilities is responsible for providing water and sewer services to residences and businesses. The Department currently manages approximately 16,000 accounts.*

###